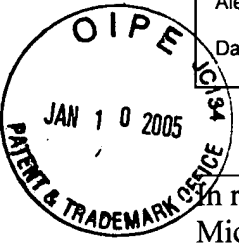


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV335376736US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 10, 2005 Signature

Martina Placit

Docket No.: 223002010005
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Application No.: 09/884,456

Art Unit: 1652

Filed: June 18, 2001

Examiner: W. Moore

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated July 9, 2004, for which a response was due on October 9, 2004. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to January 9, 2005, which falls on a Sunday. Accordingly, this response is timely filed on Monday, January 10, 2005.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.